

# HAWAII AGRICULTURE 1998



Farm level revenues rose 1 percent in 1998 to \$509.2 million. Increases occurred in all three sectors, sugar, pineapple, and diversified agriculture. It was a year when record highs for some commodities were tempered by weather related production declines and weaker prices for other crops.

An 8-percent increase in fresh sales allowed pineapple to continue its recent hold on the number one spot with an equivalent farm value of \$92.8 million. The increase in fresh sales was responsible for the boost, with processed utilization remaining unchanged. Pineapple acreage also increased, up 6 percent from the previous year.

On the strength of improved prices and higher sugar yields, the equivalent farm value of sugarcane rose 2 percent to \$87.4 million. There was a slight decline in the amount of acreage harvested.

Although tempered by unfavorable weather and lower prices for some commodities, diversified agriculture continued its record setting ascent to finish the year with farm receipts pegged at \$329.0 million. Highlights include record high gross farm receipts for floriculture, vegetable and herb crops, seed research, bananas, and higher cattle revenues. Macadamia nuts and coffee suffered weather related declines in production and world market related lower prices. Although price declines lowered revenues, the papaya industry was optimistic about the future due to increased plantings of disease resistant varieties. Aquaculture is now included as an important sector of diversified agriculture, accounting for 5 percent of that sector's value.

Farm values don't truly reflect the total contribution of agriculture to the State's economy. Adding the processed values of sugar and pineapple raises the total to \$607 million, but even that is still incomplete. Unknown are the value added figures for macadamia nuts, coffee, fruit processing, vegetable processing and so on. For a more complete look at the total value of the agricultural industry in Hawaii see page 18 for an analysis by agricultural economists at the University of Hawaii.

## Cash Receipts of Agricultural Commodities, State of Hawaii, 1970-98

